

## Antrim Elementary Eagles

October 1, 2017



*"Best Float" in Antrim's Home & Harvest Parade*

### Message from the Principal

AES is an amazing place! We are so lucky to have such dedicated teachers who care so much and give so much of their time for our students. During Open House, our students were so excited to share their classrooms with their families. This is where they spend the majority of their day, and it is so important that they feel welcome, respected, valued, and cared for. As you read through this newsletter, you will see that AES is a magical place with so much to offer our students and families. You can expect a newsletter to go home every month, and please know we are working very hard on improving our school's website.

In the next month, we will be conducting fire drills and off-site evacuation drills. We hope we never have to actually experience these events, but we must always be prepared. October is fire safety month, and the students will have an opportunity to participate in fire safety activities with the local fire department.

Our partnership in providing the best learning opportunity for our students is so important. That is why I am asking you to help out with an issue that seems to be interfering with the learning process here at school. Please have your children keep their toys and Pokemon trading cards at home. We will not be trading cards at school because it has the potential to cause unnecessary problems that distract students from the learning process. Our PTO has donated a lot of balls and other recess equipment to keep the students engaged and moving at recess, so there really isn't a reason to bring in anything else. Thank you for cooperating and

supporting us as we do our best to make your child's learning experience the best one possible. Thank you in advance for your support.

Remember, our vision of AES is a community inspiring all members to grow academically, socially, and emotionally within a safe, caring and nurturing environment. Our partnership together is so important to bringing this vision to life. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher if you have questions, concerns, or compliments.

### KINDERGARTEN

We have been enjoying getting to know everyone this past month! We had our first art project with Jeannie Connolly! Miss Lescarbeau's class made a map of our face and Mr. Stultz's class made fish counting books. October will be filled with more fun learning! In math we will explore numbers to ten, counting in various arrangements with one-to-one correspondence, and number patterns. We will continue to work on shape recognition from our work in September. In literacy we will continue to read stories that help us answer the question "How do we live, work, and play together?" We will be learning and practicing our sight words.

### FIRST GRADE

First-graders in Mrs. Donovan's class love sharing books with friends, especially the Elephant and Piggie stories! They are happy to be Reading Buddies with the 4th-graders in Ms. Carter's class. Ms. Donovan's students have also been enjoying Eric Carle's books, especially The Hungry Caterpillar. This story connects to our science study of insects' body adaptations that help them get what they need to survive. We will also be learning about how the parent and the young are alike and different, with insects and other creatures in the animal world. All the first-graders shared the painted papers to create caterpillars and other artwork showing the life cycle of the butterfly.



## FIRST GRADE CONTINUED

In Mrs. Zawacki's first grade this month we did an author study of Eric Carle and combined that with our science unit on the Life Cycle of the Butterfly. We read many Eric Carle books, watched a video on how he makes his "papers" that he uses to create the pictures in his books and finally painted our own "papers". To say the least the painting of the "papers" was a lot of fun and show the creativity of all the students.

Next came the science! We observed real monarch caterpillars change to chrysalises and then to butterflies. We read books about butterflies and then finally we got to use the papers we made to make some very colorful caterpillars and butterflies. We hope everyone saw them hanging in the hallway during Open House!!!

## SECOND GRADE

Second graders have been enjoying harvesting the garden during Cornucopia! We have reviewed what is needed to make plants grow as well as investigating bugs that may harm our plants. It's been fun to sample the yummy fruits of their labors. We will continue to study plants and the different way seeds are dispersed.

## Third GRADE

Third graders have been enjoying a hawk study with lessons from the Harris Center and a field trip to Pack Monadnock! Our study began with Janet Altobello, a Harris Center Teacher/Naturalist, introducing us to three beautiful raptor mounts. This allowed students to get a close up view of the adaptations raptors use to hunt and migrate great distances. She then explained how weather plays a major part in the raptor's journey south using thermals and mountain ridges to glide effortlessly. We made wind vanes to determine the direction of the wind so we could tell which days were good migrating days. Our study concluded with a hike up Pack Monadnock to see the annual migration and meet members of the Audubon Raptor Migration Observatory. While it was cloudy, there were still close to 300 raptors seen that day! The previous day was the busiest of the season, they saw over 2,000!

## Fourth Grade

In October the fourth graders are going to be engaged in a variety of new and challenging topics that will expand their knowledge and understanding in all subject areas. In reading, we will continue reading fiction stories, moving from realistic fiction to historical fiction. The next story we are going to read a story called "Lewis and Clark and Me".



*Pumpkins in the Starry Night*

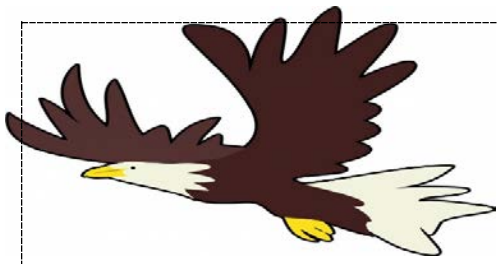
## FOURTH GRADE CONTINUED

In math, we will continue our work with place value and expand into multi digit addition with whole numbers. We will learn about light energy in science. The social studies topic that will be covered in October is early New Hampshire geography. It's going to be a busy and exciting month.

## MUZART

Muzart at AES has been bursting with creative ideas and wonderful voices! We started the year with observational drawing. In Kindergarten we traced, painted and cut leaves to create "Leaf People." First grade artists observed a pumpkin from Tenney Farm as well as a famous work of art by Van Gogh, Starry Night. We combined our observations into artworks of "Pumpkins in the Starry Night!" In Second Grade, we painted Whimsical Fall Trees after reading, Fall Is Not Easy by Marty Kelley. Our third grade artists had a choice in creating their leaf art. They could design their artwork in a Pop Art style or Realistic style using a combination of sharpie, oil pastel and watercolor paints. In Fourth Grade our AES student artists created many observational studies of sunflowers in their new sketchbooks. They used pencil, paint, oil crayon, paper collage as well as markers. Every project is so unique just like our AES students!

In Music we are practicing beat, rhythm, body percussion, singing in unison and learning new contra dances and action songs! Ask a Kindergarten student, "What would you do if a Robot came to tea?" You can board the train with a first grader who could clap the beat and rhythm of "Engine, Engine Number Nine!" If you hear a Second Grader singing, "ta ta titi ta" they are creating their own rhythms using quarter notes and eighth notes. Trolls have invaded Third grade Music Class in the story of Peer Gynt as we listen closely and analyze, "In the Hall of the Mountain King" by Edvard Grieg. Finally, our Fourth Grade Contra Dancers have been learning to work together to dance and perform body percussion rhythms, have them teach you "stomp, clap, snap" then listen as they improvise their own rhythm to join yours! Future adventures in Muzart include portraits and rhythm instruments!



## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Welcome to Antrim Physical Education! It has been a great meeting all of the students here at AES. Aside from getting to know each other, we have been reviewing expectations in the gym and “How to B in P.E.”. Students began the school year reviewing (and for kindergarteners... learning) the “locomotor” skills of hopping, jumping, galloping, skipping and side sliding. In order to be safe while we are on the move, we participated in a variety of activities that require us to change speeds, directions, pathways and levels all while keeping our “personal space”. Kindergarten, first and second grade students moved on to playing tag where they demonstrated how to “play hard”, “play fair” and “play safe”. K-2 students also practiced both individual and long rope jumping.

Third and fourth grade students have been learning about cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength & endurance and flexibility by exploring different activities we do in P.E. to improve those areas of fitness. “Tag” games are certainly a fan favorite! After some fun fitness activities, they completed the FitnessGram fitness challenges (PACER, sit and reach, curl-ups, and push-ups). We finished up the month practicing foot skills used in games like soccer, kickball and football.

## CORNUCOPIA

It was so nice to see the sun again! Cornucopia teachers Lauren Judd and Cathy Joly returned to the garden for a day all about bugs. The students listened to a fun poem about insects, and they did a great job singing the Heads-shoulders-knees-and-toes song using insect body parts! Then they explored the garden searching for all kinds of insects. They discovered a cabbage moth flitting around the garden (laying eggs?), and the well-camouflaged cabbage worms eating the kale leaves. There were big and little spiders, daddy longlegs, and lots of buzzing bumblebees and honey bees visiting the flowers in the garden. Afterwards, we all snacked on lemon cucumbers, sorrel, tomatoes and parsley. Yum!

## GRANDPARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS AT AES BY: ROBIN GREGG, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, AES AND PIERCE SCHOOL

Some years ago, the Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center organized a meeting for a small group of Bennington and Antrim grandparents who were the primary caretakers for their grandchildren. More recently, in March of 2015, a more formal Grandparent Support Group was created to address the needs of grandparents in our area (Antrim, Bennington, and surrounding towns and communities) who are parenting their grandchildren. These individuals and couples have made the enormous commitment of raising their young grandchildren. The Grandparent Support Group continues to meet regularly, and serves as a welcome source of information-sharing and mutual support.

The Grandparent Support Group generally meets once a month at Antrim Elementary School on a Saturday morning, with child care available. There is no fee for the meetings.

The group is a joint effort of the Grapevine in Antrim and The River Center in Peterborough, family and community resource centers that run a variety of programs to address the needs of people in our communities. Wendy Hill from The River Center and Carol Lunan from the Grapevine facilitate the group meetings.

During the first part of the 2017-2018 school year, the group will meet at Antrim Elementary School to discuss a variety of topics. Relevant resource people will attend the meetings to provide information and support:

**Saturday, September 23** - 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Legal issues related to parenting grandchildren. A lawyer with expertise in this area will attend the meeting.

**Saturday, October 14 and Saturday, October 28**  
9 a.m. – 12 noon

Trauma - A therapist (or therapists) with expertise in this topic will attend these two meetings.

All area grandparents who are parenting their grandchildren are welcome to attend!

For more information, contact Carol Lunan at the Grapevine (588-2620) or Wendy Hill (313-8660).